

Under a BILARI TREE I BORN

by Alice Bilari Smith
with Anna Vitenbergs & Loreen Brehaut

'An evocative and powerful Aboriginal voice.' *Aboriginal History*

'A splendid piece of Indigenous oral history.' *Canberra Times*

'Essential reading for secondary students who want to gain a deeper understanding of the life and experiences of Aboriginal women living in Australia.' *Australian Teacher*

ABOUT THE BOOK

This groundbreaking book brings to light the hidden experience of First Nations women in regional and remote Australia.

Alice Bilari Smith's extraordinary journey embodies the strength and spirit of Australia's country women. Raised amidst the rugged beauty of the bush and the challenges of station life in the Pilbara, Alice mastered a range of skills, from cooking and sewing to mustering and dingo scalping. In Roebourne, Alice played a pivotal role in establishing a Homemakers Centre for Aboriginal families. Alice was one of the indomitable women who shaped our communities, and who inspire others by example.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

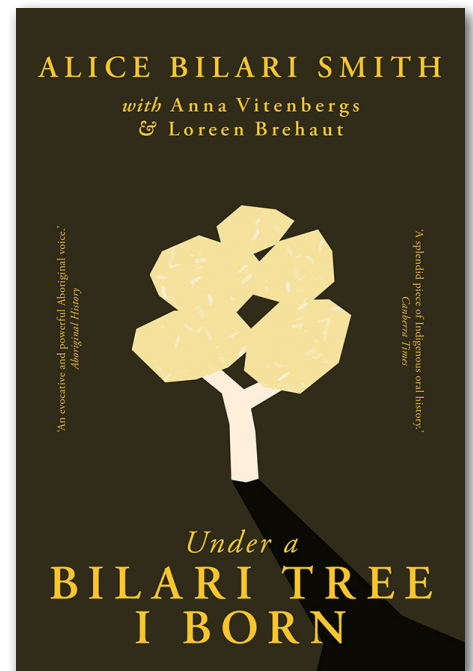
Alice Bilari Smith was born at Rocklea Station in the 1920s. Her mother was a Banyjima woman and her father a white teamster. Raised by her Aboriginal family, she narrowly escaped being removed to Moore River. Alice spent most of her adult years living in the bush and raising a large family. In 1969, Alice settled in Roebourne where she became a foster mother to 15 children and a valued member of the community. Alice passed on 1 February 2012.

Anna Vitenbergs was born in Scotland and came to live in the Pilbara in the 1960s. For some years, she and her husband lived abroad and interstate, but they settled in Dampier in the 1980s.

Loreen Brehaut was born in New Zealand. She became active recording oral histories and was co-author of Florence Corrigan's autobiography *Miles of Post and Wire*, which was shortlisted for the 1999 Western Australian Premier's Book Awards.

NOTES

- A fascinating insight on a life lived between the black and white worlds in North-West Western Australia.
- Released in a stunning new edition, in celebration of Fremantle Press's 50th year, this First Nations classic details the strength and resilience of women (particularly First Nations women) in regional Australia.



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